

"Appln. No. 09/865,601
Amd. dated September 2, 2004
Reply to Office Action of June 2, 2004

document has been filed. An accurate translation thereof is attached.

A review of the enclosed translation will readily reveal that it discloses the claimed invention, certainly to the extent that it is disclosed in the reference JP '151. In particular, it is apparent from the translation that the priority document is directed to the same current collector separator as claimed in the present Application, and explicitly discloses that the separator is composed of a metal plate made of aluminum having flow channels and contact faces that come into contact with electrodes or collectors, together with an anodized aluminum layer disposed on each of the flow channels. This is precisely what is defined in claim 1 and described in paragraphs [0010]-[0012] of the priority document. The remainder of the priority document describes the details of embodiments of the separator according to the present invention.

Since, therefore, JP 2000-323151 is not available as prior art against any of the claims of the present Application, it is requested that the prior art rejections be reconsidered and withdrawn and that the Application be allowed.

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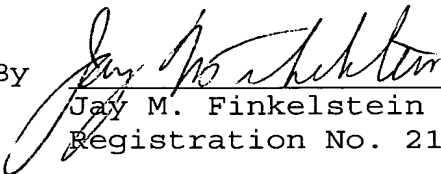
Furthermore, since the invention of Species 2 was previously examined, and found allowable, in view of the allowance of the claims directed to Species 1, it is now believed that the previous election requirements should again be withdrawn and all of the pending claims allowed.

In addition, to complete the record, submitted herewith is a translation of the secondary reference relied upon by the Examiner, JP '892.

If the above amendment should not now place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to call undersigned counsel to resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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